

ABSTRACT

rayed

24-28 North Potomac Street

circa 1883-1884

Hagerstown

Washington County

Probably erected about 1883-1884 for John Gassman (1845-19), a grocer and a member of Hagerstown City Council, this three stories high, brick commercial structure is important for the architectural merit of its facade (west side). Nearly original, the facade is eclectic in design combining classical elements with Queen Anne decorative brickwork and Eastlavian incised decoration. The facade is visually a strong part of the streetscape and a focal point, because of its central location, tying together the rhythm of lines created by the neighboring buildings.

HISTORIC SITE
SURVEY INVENTORY

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: 24-28 North Potomac Street <i>Demolished Sept 1976</i>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 24-28 North Potomac Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: <i>Arthur R. Richards et al, c/o Roger Fiery, Jr.</i>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Route 1, Box 232 Loyola Federal</i>				
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Baltimore</i> Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		21740
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 95 West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 604-474				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncluttered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The building stands at 24-28 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, and is located on the east side of the street in the southern half of the block formed by Public Square and Franklin Street.</p> <p>The building is a late nineteenth century, three stories high, red brick commercial structure with a symmetrical facade (west side) and two twentieth century store fronts on the street level. Originally, the building sat tight to the sidewalk and neighboring structures but is now open along the south side. With the exception of the store fronts, the facade is fairly original although in some need of basic repair.</p> <p>The upper two levels of the facade (west side) are bisected by a column of tripartite bay windows and are crowned by a boldly projecting bracketed cornice. The brick wall is divided into sections by recessed panels corresponding to the floor levels on each side of the bay window column. Each of the recessed panels have two windows and stepped brick work along the top and corbelled over to the sides. All of the windows on the upper levels have double-hung wooden sashes with one-over-one lights. The second story windows have segmental arches and the third story windows have round arches. The base of each recessed panel has a stone belt course.</p> <p>The tripartite bay window column has windows corresponding in type to those of the main portion: segmental arches on second and round arches on third. The column is decorated with bas-relief sculpture, incised designs, and shingles. It is topped with a pedimented hood tied into but projecting outward a bit more than the cornice. The hood contains a band of classical influenced fluting and a reeded fan.</p> <p>The street level of the facade has two twentieth century store fronts which appear to have been set into the original store front openings while retaining the original bracketed cornice above the fronts and doorway to the upper stories.</p> <p>Within the past decade the building which stood to the south of 24-28 North Potomac Street was demolished for the construction of a parking lot, thus exposing the south wall of this building.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

circa 1883-1884

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This three stories high, brick commercial structure is thought to have been built for John Gassman (1845-19), a grocer and a member of the Hagerstown City Council. The building is representative of the eclectic architecture popular in the late nineteenth century and is primarily important for the facade (west side).

The building probably dates from about 1883-1884. Gassman purchased the property in April, 1883 (Deed Book 84, p. 66) and in the same year became sole proprietor of the grocery business he and his brother William operated for years under the name of Gassman Brothers (Williams, II, p. 672-673). A native of Hagerstown, Gassman retired from business in 1903 but retained ownership of the building until 1910 (Deed Book 133, p. 522).

The structure is important primarily for the architectural merit of its facade (west side) and because the facade is in fairly original condition. One of the more ornate fronts along this important artery leading into Public Square, the facade combines classical influenced elements, fluting and a reeded fan, with the decorative brick work associated with the Queen Anne style and the incised decoration of the Eastlake period. The two store fronts on the street level date from the middle of the present century but appear to have been placed, intentionally or unintentionally, so as to retain the cornice and brackets crowning the original fronts.

Visually, the facade on 24-28 North Potomac Street is an important part of the streetscape. It harmoniously contrasts with the earlier and later fronts along the street and serves, because of its central location, as a focal point tying together the rhythm of lines created by the other buildings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Williams, Thomas J. C. The History of Washington County, Maryland,
2 vol. Hagerstown, Maryland: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth,
1906.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

The property measures approximately 40' x 240'.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

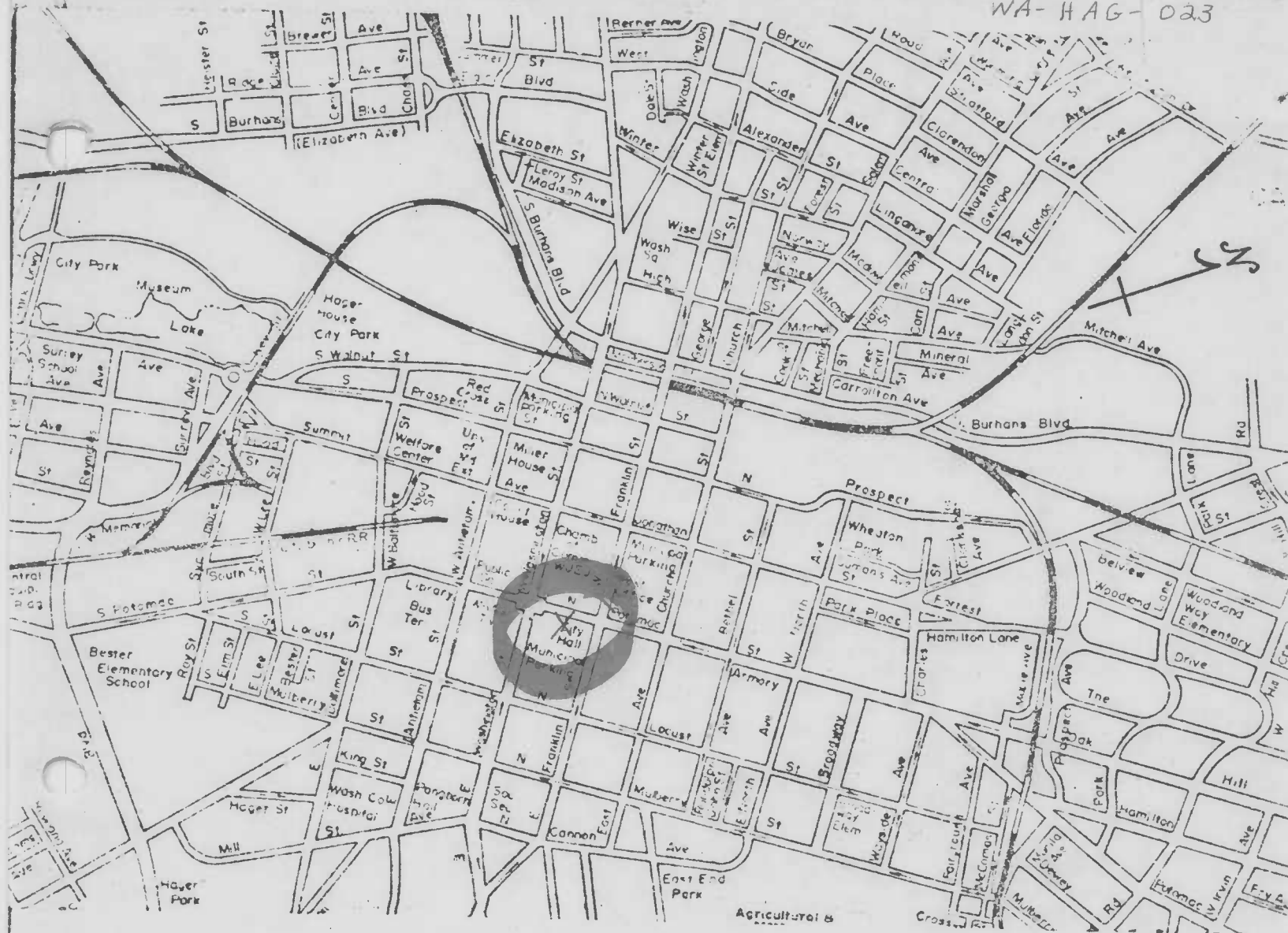
NAME AND TITLE: Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant		(mbe)
ORGANIZATION City of Hagerstown		DATE 1976
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall		
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland	

12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



SITE: 24-28 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
City Engineering Dept.
July, 1970
scale 1"=1200'



24-28 North Potomac St.
Hagerstown
Washington Co, Maryland
SW view
November, 1975

WA-HAG-023

RONALD L. ANDREWS



24-28 North Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.
SW view
Nov., 1975

WA- H A G- 023

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24-28 North Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Maryland
west elevation - detail
November, 1975

WA-HAG-023

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